

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly enter the following amendments to the claims:

Claims 1-9 (previously cancelled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): The support arrangement according to claim 20 ~~40~~, further comprising a third ~~wherein the second~~ plurality of support assemblies providing ~~provides~~ support in a substantially vertical direction.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The support arrangement according to claim 11, wherein each ~~support assembly~~ of the third ~~second~~ plurality of support assemblies comprises a third component affixed to the ~~tank~~ vertical wall and a forth component ~~second support structure~~ affixed to the array of support members and permits relative sliding motion between the third component and the forth component ~~second support structure~~ in a ~~the~~ substantially horizontal direction.

Claim 13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): The support arrangement according to claim 20 ~~40~~, wherein the at least one substantially horizontal wall and one substantially vertical wall ~~adjacent tank wall~~ ~~includes~~ include an array of stiffeners to which the first components of the first plurality of support assemblies and the second plurality of support assemblies are affixed.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The support arrangement according to claim 20 ~~40~~, wherein the ~~first~~ support structure of the first plurality of support assemblies and the second plurality of support assemblies comprises a load-bearing component made of thermally insulating material.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The support arrangement according to claim ~~20~~ 10, wherein the second component of the first plurality of support assemblies and the second plurality of support assemblies substantially encloses ~~a~~ the portion of the ~~first~~ support structure of the first plurality of support assemblies and the second plurality of support assemblies.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The support arrangement according to claim ~~20~~ 10, wherein ~~the tank wall is oriented in a vertical plane and the second~~ first plurality of support assemblies permits relative sliding motion between the array of support members and the vertical ~~tank~~ wall in a substantially ~~the~~ horizontal direction and a substantially vertical direction ~~directions~~.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The support arrangement according to claim 17, wherein ~~said first~~ the second plurality of support assemblies are ~~connected to the vertical tank wall at~~ substantially located above and below a horizontal center line of the ~~tank~~ vertical wall.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The support arrangement according to claim 17, wherein ~~said second~~ a third plurality of support assemblies connecting the array of support members to the at least one vertical wall are substantially located ~~connected to the vertical tank wall~~ along a horizontal center line of the ~~tank~~ vertical wall.

Claim 20 (new): A support arrangement for a semi-membrane tank comprising:

an array of support members disposed adjacent to the semi-membrane tank, the semi-membrane tank having at least one substantially horizontal wall and one substantially vertical wall;

a first plurality of support assemblies connecting the array of support members to the at least one horizontal wall and providing support for the horizontal wall in a substantially vertical direction while permitting relative sliding motion therebetween in at least one substantially horizontal direction, each of the first plurality of support assemblies comprising:

a first component affixed to the horizontal wall;

a second component member affixed to the array of support members; and
a support structure connecting the first and second components and permitting relative sliding motion between the first and second components in a substantially horizontal direction while providing vertical load support for the horizontal wall;
a second plurality of support assemblies connecting the support members to the at least one vertical wall and permitting relative sliding motion therebetween in at least one substantially horizontal direction, each of the second plurality of support assemblies comprising:
a first component affixed to the vertical wall;
a second component member affixed to the array of support members; and
a support structure connecting the first and second components and permitting relative sliding motion between the first and second components in a substantially horizontal direction.

Claim 21 (new): The support arrangement according to claim 20, wherein the first plurality of support assemblies permit relative sliding motion between the array of support members and the horizontal wall in two substantially orthogonal horizontal directions.

Claim 22 (new): The support arrangement according to claim 20, wherein the support structure of the first plurality of support assemblies and the second plurality of support assemblies includes a groove permitting sliding motion of the first component in a direction substantially orthogonal to the sliding motion permitted between the support structure and the second component, and wherein the first component includes a portion received in the groove of the support structure.